GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2781
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2000
PLAN TO KEEP DRUGS OUT OF WTO
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any seminar/meeting of developing countries was held recently to prepare a strategy to ensure that essential drugs were kept out of the purview of the WTO regime;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the suggestions/decision taken by the developing countries in this regard;

(d) whether the multi-national companies are lobbying for the proposal; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (e) The Government is not aware of any seminar/meeting of developing countries held recently, on the specific subject of keeping essential drugs outside the purview of WTO.
However, international agencies like the UNAIDSand the World Health Organisation (WHO) are making an endeavour to coordinate the efforts of individual countries in making drugs needed for treatment of life threatening diseases like AIDS more accessible to the poor patients.